

advance passenger list given the Customs Service against which they can check the lists and determine whether there are passengers we don't want coming into this country.

The result of knocking that out of the conference so it was not in the counterterrorism bill last week, in my judgment, injures this country's ability to provide for secure borders. It is small thinking in the extreme, in my judgment.

Today and tomorrow these airplanes will haul passengers into this country and we will not have information about who those passengers are. We will have information on most of the passengers coming in from South America, from Europe, from most of the countries with which we have trading relationships and good relationships; they have signed a voluntary agreement with us. But the fact is, some of the key countries, some of the key carriers from that region that we need to be very concerned about at this point, are not involved if we receive no passenger list.

Someone said, when you read the names—Pakistan, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and more—aren't you profiling passengers? I said it is not about profiling passengers but about getting a list of all passengers coming into this country and trying to profile who might be known or suspected terrorists and keeping them out. If they happen to come from one region of the country, I regret that. But we are not profiling passengers; we are profiling terrorists to see if we can keep out of this country those whom we don't want to let in because they have suspect ties to terrorist organizations.

Coming into this country with a visa is coming into this country as a guest of the United States. We have every right to keep out of this country those who have ties to or those who are associated with known terrorist organizations. But today, Tuesday, we cannot do that because of behavior that represents monumental littleness, as one of our great former Presidents said in a conference last week, knocking out the amendment to which the Senate had already agreed, knocking out the amendment that came to that conference from the Senate.

As a result, I intend to offer this amendment just after lunch today on this piece of legislation, and I will offer this amendment on every piece of legislation until it becomes law, until it is in a vehicle signed into law by the President of the United States. So at 12:30 on Tuesday next week or a week after when a plane lands in this country, carrying passengers from abroad, we will know that in every circumstance information on the passenger list from that plane is provided to the U.S. Customs Service before departure.

Some might say, well, isn't this an unusual, intrusive and difficult thing

to ask of others? The answer is no. Anyone who watched those commercial airplanes fly into the World Trade Center in New York knows that a lot has changed since September 11.

This country's security is critically important. Border security, it seems to me, is where you start. The President said yesterday, as reported in the papers today dealing with visas, that we should be tightening up on visas. I fully agree with that. You have to maintain control of your borders. That doesn't mean you build a wall and keep people out. It means you have sufficient capability to understand who is coming in and to keep the wrong people out. That is what it means.

My hope is that we will be able to add this amendment to this appropriations bill. I understand this isn't an appropriations amendment. I understand that completely. My hope is that my colleagues who have already approved this—the Senate has already approved this legislation—will understand that our job is to keep sending this matter to conference on every vehicle possible so that the next airplane that lands from abroad is an airplane with a list of passengers that we have, and that list has been checked against the Customs list, against the FBI list, and against all of the lists of some 20 different agencies that have lists that tell us about people who should not be allowed to enter this country because of their known or suspected ties to terrorist organizations.

I will come back after lunch with an amendment I will formally offer. My hope is that the chairman and the ranking member will see fit to agree to it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for no longer than 5 minutes as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I sat here for the last few minutes and listened to my colleague from North Dakota talk about border security. Certainly what he has said I agree with in principle. I haven't seen his amendment. I will now search it out and read it.

I have always believed if you have a guest in your home and find out that guest is going to burn down your home, you are going to get that guest out of your house just as quickly as you can before he or she touches the match. Foreign nationals in this country are guests of our country. They are guests in our home. There is nothing wrong with asking them to play by a few rules and for us to know who is on the guest list.

If that is what the Senator from North Dakota is talking about, I will support him in that effort.

# NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I come to the floor this morning to ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD letters from J. Eldon Yates, chairman and founder of the Vietnam Veterans Institute; the American Legion national commander, Richard Santos; the Veterans of Foreign Wars executive director, Robert Wallace; and Joseph Lipowski, the national commander of AMVETS.

They joined me, several of my colleagues, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Anthony Principi, just a few moments ago outside our Capitol to call on this Senate and our leader, Tom Daschle, to bring a national energy policy bill before this Senate before we adjourn this year.

Clearly, the President has been outspoken in the last month—and I agree with what he is doing—about strengthening our resolve and protecting our freedoms as the country cries out for a national energy policy that is a policy of national security.

Today the administration announced that we are going to start buying oil to put into our national Strategic Petroleum Reserve to beef up the total volume in that reserve in case of a national crisis. But even when that is done, if the oil of the Middle East were cut off, that reserve would last only for a few weeks before we would be in a significant energy crisis.

Our President as well as the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Energy, the Vice President, labor unions, chambers of commerce, National Association of Manufacturers, and small business groups speaks out. America is being told today that national energy is a national security issue.

Strangely enough, the chairman of the Energy Committee even spoke this last weekend saying he wanted a national energy policy addressed before the end of the year. Yet nothing is done. The Energy Committee has been shut down by orders of the majority leader. Republicans are producing an energy bill. We have been to the floor time and time again asking for a time certain on which to debate this critical issue. The House acted in August. Our world would come tumbling down around us at this moment, economically speaking, if the oil of the Middle East were shut off from this country. Our economy would stifle. It is an issue of national security.

I ask unanimous consent that these letters be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letters were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

AMVETS,

Lanham, MD, October 26, 2001.

Hon. TOM DASCHLE,  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,  
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR DASCHLE: On behalf of AMVETS, I am writing to encourage you to

bring H.R. 4, the Securing America's Future Energy Act of 2001, before the full Senate for consideration at the earliest possible moment prior to the close of the 1st Session of the 107th Congress.

As you know, our current reliance on foreign oil leaves the United States vulnerable to the whim of individual oil-exporting countries, many existing in the unpredictable and highly dangerous Persian Gulf. And it cannot be overstated that energy supplies touch nearly every aspect of our lives from our economy to our national security.

Passage of H.R. 4 would greatly assist in our ability to secure a more dependable and diversified domestic supply of energy. And, I would note that since the Persian Gulf War our security has become more threatened with our dependence on foreign sources of oil growing from 35 percent of domestic supply to nearly 60 percent.

AMVETS firmly believes that we cannot wait for the next crisis before we act. H.R. 4, as approved by the House, is a critical part of an overall policy America requires to promote dependable, affordable, and environmentally sound production and distribution of energy for the future. We urge your expedited approval of this legislation.

Dedicated to service.

JOSEPH W. LIPOWSKI,  
*National Commander.*

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,  
OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Washington, DC, October 29, 2001.*

Hon. TOM DASCHLE,  
*Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATOR DASCHLE: The 2.7 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary supports H.R. 4, the "Securing America's Future Energy Act of 2001" or SAFE Act of 2001. We applaud the House of Representatives for its bipartisan work in addressing our energy vulnerability by passing H.R. 4. We believe the Senate should consider and vote on H.R. 4 so that our nation has an energy plan for the future and can move forward quickly with a comprehensive plan to develop our domestic energy resources.

Keeping in mind the horrific events of September 11 and mindful of the threats we are facing, we strongly believe that the development of America's domestic energy resources is a vital national security priority. We need to take steps to reverse our growing dependence on Middle East oil as quickly as possible. By passing H.R. 4, the Senate will be supporting our troops serving in combat on Operation Enduring Freedom, the American people, and our national security with a comprehensive energy legislation that is desperately needed to diversify the energy supply for our country and chart a course for the future.

The VFW strongly urges the Senate to consider and vote on H.R. 4 as passed in the House in this session of Congress.

Sincerely,

ROBERT E. WALLACE,  
*Executive Director.*

THE AMERICAN LEGION,  
*Washington, DC, October 25, 2001.*

Hon. TOM DASCHLE,  
*Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,*  
*The Capitol, Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATOR DASCHLE: We write today out of a sense of urgency concerning our national security, as it relates to our need for energy independence. The development of America's domestic energy resources is vital

to our national security. We respectfully urge you to adopt the provisions contained in H.R. 4, the "Securing America's Future Energy Act of 2001."

War and international terrorism have again brought into sharp focus the heavy reliance of the United States on imported oil. During times of crises, such reliance threatens our national security and economic well being. The import of more than 50 percent of our petroleum from the Persian Gulf further compounds our foreign trade balance at a time when our energy demands continued unabated. It is important that we develop domestic sources of oil, contained within our public lands—such as the supplies within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Working for a comprehensive energy policy and achieving responsible energy independence are critical national security and economic goals. H.R. 4, as passed by the House of Representatives, is a major step forward to achieving these imperative goals. We strongly urge your support.

Sincerely,

RICHARD J. SANTOS,  
*National Commander.*

STATEMENT OF OUR NATION'S VETERANS GROUPS, "OUR DOMESTIC ENERGY SECURITY IS OUR NATIONAL SECURITY", OCTOBER 30, 2001

We, the undersigned, representing our nation's veterans, strongly believe that the development of America's domestic energy resources is a vital national security priority. The horrific events of September 11, 2001, constitute a threat to our people, our economy, and our nation's security. With U.S. troops actively engaged in combat overseas, we firmly believe that America can and will win this prolonged war against terrorism, using all its resources to defend our nation and the cause of freedom around the world.

Because of these beliefs, we applaud the House of Representatives for its bipartisan work in addressing our energy vulnerability by passing H.R. 4, the "Securing America's Future Energy Act of 2001" or the "SAFE Act of 2001." It is imperative that the Senate pass the House version of H.R. 4 so that our nation can move forward in establishing our energy security, as well as our defense of freedom at home and abroad. It is essential for us to develop all domestic energy resources including the supplies within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

By passing H.R. 4, the comprehensive energy legislation, the Senate will be supporting our troops in the field, all Americans, their families, and our nation. We, as Veterans, stand united and respectfully request that the Senate vote on and pass H.R. 4.

J. ELTON YATES,  
*Chairman and Founder,*  
*Vietnam Veterans Institute.*

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, America's veterans, those who have stood in harm's way year after year and decade after decade in defense and support of our freedom, now speak out and say: Senator DASCHLE, this is an issue of national security. Where are you? Why aren't you allowing the Senate to debate this issue now and have on the President's desk a national energy policy before we recess this first session of the 107th Congress?

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002—Continued

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I want to talk a minute about part of the Labor, HHS, and Education appropriations bill as it pertains to an area of particular concern to me and my State; that is, rural health care.

I am cochairman of the Rural Health Care Caucus, along with the Senator from Iowa. I think this issue has been treated very well in this bill. I would like to comment just a bit about it.

We have, of course, a special focus on rural health care because it is unique. And because it is a special kind of issue that does not apply everywhere, I think it is necessary for us to deal with it from time to time.

We submitted a letter from our caucus. I think there were 43 Members of the Senate listed on the letter asking for some consideration. I think this committee has reacted quite well.

There are a number of things of which most people are not aware and which are not talked about very often. Although 20 percent of the population of this country lives in what is called rural areas, only 9 percent of physicians practice in those areas. You can see it is always somewhat difficult to have the kind of medical services in rural areas that are available in other places.

Rural areas contain 67 percent of the country's primary health care professional shortage areas. I guess that is not a surprise, but indeed that is the case. It is in need of focus to ensure we have primary care in all of these rural areas.

There are 2,187 rural hospitals, a majority of which are primary care hospitals. Specialized care is very limited. Only 12 of 245 long-term care hospitals are in rural areas, and 81 of 601 psychiatric hospitals are in rural areas. None of the country's 73 children's hospitals is in rural areas.

As you can see, there is a need, and indeed there has been and continues to be special emphasis on it.

For example, national health care services: This is a program that provides primary health care providers in our Nation's most underserved communities. Last year, only 12.5 percent of the communities eligible for provider placement received assistance. That has increased. Adequately? I do not know. Would we like more? Of course. Nevertheless, it has been treated well.

There is an increase for community health centers. Community health centers provide services in rural areas for people living in underserved areas. They provide a service that is not always needed but is unique to rural areas.

Rural health research: A grant is provided for rural health research as to how to provide more services.